

Vergennes Transportation Task Force

Meeting Notes

Task Force Meeting No. 10

Date/Time: March 25, 2015 / 6:30 PM
Place: Vergennes Fire Station
Next Meeting: April 22, 2015
Attendees: Greg Edwards, Margaret Lowe, Steve Lowe, Shannon Haggett, Joe Klopenstein, Rebecca Rey, Shannon Haggett.
Absentees: See email list
Distribution: See email list

Items Discussed:

Action:

- 1. VT 22A Truck traffic** Diane developed a letter to the Truck and Bus Association. Diane will ask for traffic count data for VT 22A by vehicle classification. Steve Lowe drove and provided driving time and mileage for VT22A, Addison VT 17 to Ferrisburgh US7 and for VT17 and US7 to VT22A intersection in Ferrisburgh. His findings were summarized in a memo. Outstanding questions regarding trucks were: what are their origins and destinations? What are the number of trucks passing through Vergennes and when do they pass thru? Joel will look into the Bradenton Florida story that influenced trucks passing thru their town. **There was no discussion on this subject.**
Diane
Lanpher/
Steve Lowe
- 2. ACRPC Transportation Grant Application** – The application was the only one received by the ACRPC and was approved for \$25k in funding at the August 20th TAC meeting. The next step is the ACRPC will develop an RFP and work with the City to finalize it and select a consultant. Eventually we will need to propose City members to work with the ACRPC. **The Request for Proposals (RFP), including the SCBC grant, is on-street for consultants to respond. Shannon will approach ACRPC about being on the selection committee. Task force members were interested in participating in the study process.**
- 3. Parking/One-way Streets** – The goal is to provide more space for bikes and on street parking. Rebecca Rey and Joel Melnick measured the widths for various streets and many were less than 25 feet wide. This makes them narrow to expand parking to both sides while maintaining sufficient lane width for a one way street operation. One possibly is to seek input from the fire department on needed minimum widths for emergency access. Also consider signing and publicizing parking areas. Rebecca researched the pros and cons for one way streets and found nothing conclusive. It was suggested we do an inventory number of spaces and number of available parking spaces during peak periods. Diane conducted a parking survey at the VSO event at the Opera House. Diane and Joel M. counted the available spaces before and during the event. Steve Lowe will conduct at lunchtime count. Rebecca conducted an available parking space count on a weekday and Saturday. This will provide a basis of the available parking issue. Joe K. will inquire about ability to add parking signs for Bixby lot, revisions to PO parking signs allowing for parking during non-business hours, potential use of Bank lot, and research VOH website for parking information. Joel will also ask police chief about getting the police's perspective on safety issues. **There was no discussion on this subject.**
Steve Lowe

4. **VTrans Bike/Ped Grant Application** – This was an application for a sidewalk at the north end of Main Street. It was not selected and **Greg will follow up with VTrans.**
5. **Additional Agenda Items** – Discussion of the VTrans Transportation Alternative Grant program was tabled to discuss pursuing the SCBC program. For future meetings all members will develop potential projects for discussion. One possibly was the bridge over Otter Creek sidewalk. Diane researched the bridge inspection report for the bridge. Another possibility is to pursue needed bike/ped connections in the City. The 2006 bike/ped study and the Middlebury student report may be a good basis to bike/ped improvements.
6. **Strong Communities Better Connections Program** : Vergennes received a \$40,000 grant, **The ACRPC has developed and sent out the RFP. Proposals are due in early April. Potential stakeholders to include in the planning process may include: Ryan's, schools, other task force members, and business owners.**
7. **Pedestrian and Bike Connections** – Elementary school and High School connection – Shannon spoke with June Sargent, of VEUS and Jay Stetzel, of VUHS to see what possibilities there are to involve them or students in developing a connection or interest in a connection. They would like to participate. One possibility is a sidewalk inventory. Greg will look into a sample inventory to provide to the group. This would support the municipal development plan. Another area was the north end of town and connecting to the park and ride. Members measured the underpass width and we discussed how a sidewalk would fit. With the existing 8 foot shoulders and another 10 feet to the abutments there is sufficient room to fit a 5 foot wide sidewalk while maintaining bike lanes on the roadway and the narrowing of shoulders would contribute to traffic calming. This could be noted in future studies and grant applications. This work may require coordination with Ferrisburgh since the town line is close to the underpass.
8. **Other** - Shannon will solicit a meeting with the other chairs of the task forces to meet and discuss status of committee's work.
9. **City Funding** – The committee suggested the city consider funding the following projects: develop a sidewalk maintenance plan using the sidewalk inventory, installing radar feedback signs at gateways, enhancing crosswalks with reflective paint and new “fluorescent” green signs and reflective posts. Greg will provide an email to Mayor Benton on this.
10. **New Task Force Chair**: With Greg Edwards moving from Vergennes, Shannon Haggett will now serve as the task force chair.
11. **Next meeting**: Wednesday, April 22, 7:00 pm at the fire station. Margret Lowe will reserve it and get the key.